(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 303 019 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 05.02.1997

(21) Application No 9613818.5

(22) Date of Filing 02.07.1996

(30) Priority Data
(31) 9508007 (32) 03.07.1995 (33) FR

(71) Applicant(s)
France Telecom

(Incorporated in France)

7 Place d'Alleray, 75015 Paris, France

(72) Inventor(s)
René Caussé
Philippe Derogis
Olivier Warusfel

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
Haseltine Lake & Co
Hazlitt House, 28 Southampton Buildings, Chancery
Lane, LONDON, WC2A 1AT, United Kingdom

(51) INT CL^6
H04R 1/40 3/12

(52) UK CL (Edition O)
H4J JGC J30F

(56) Documents Cited
GB 2273848 A   GB 2259426 A   GB 1456790 A
GB 1378784 A   WO 96/14723 A1   US 4845759 A
JAPIO Abstract Accession No. 03986097 &
JP040351197 A JAPIO Abstract Accession No.
03264298 & JP020239798 A

(58) Field of Search
UK CL (Edition O) H4J JGC
INT CL^6 H04R 1/32 1/40 3/12 27/00
ONLINE: WPI, JAPIO, CLAIMS

(54) A loudspeaker arrangement with controllable directivity

(57) The directivity patterns of several different loudspeakers may be combined algebraically to obtain a desired directivity pattern representing the directivity of an original or virtual sound source e.g. a musical instrument. To take account of the variation of the directivity patterns of the loudspeakers with frequency, the signals applied to these loudspeakers are filtered 24, 25 so that the composite directivity function represents the expected directivity pattern throughout the spectrum. The gain of amplifiers 15, 16 may also be adjusted. The coefficients of the filters are determined by a method of optimization both in modulus and in phase.

The loudspeaker arrangement may take the form of a polyhedral array, preferably a dodecahedral array (fig 4).
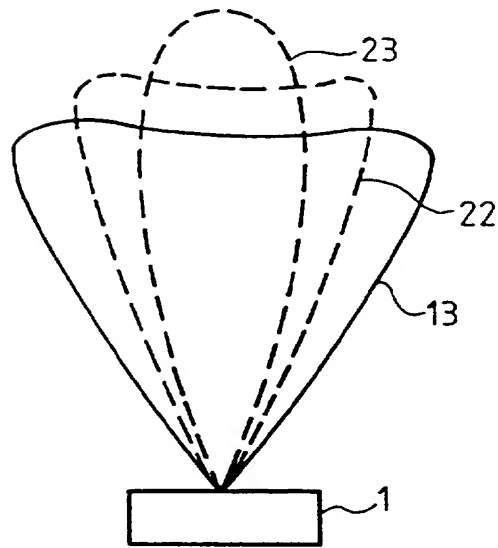
FIG_1

GB 2 303 019 A
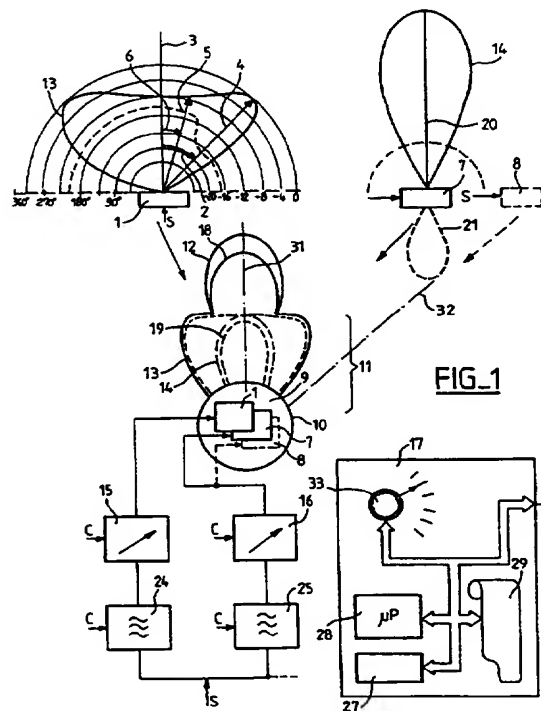
At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

This print takes account of replacement documents submitted after the date of filing to enable the application to comply with the formal requirements of the Patents Rules 1995
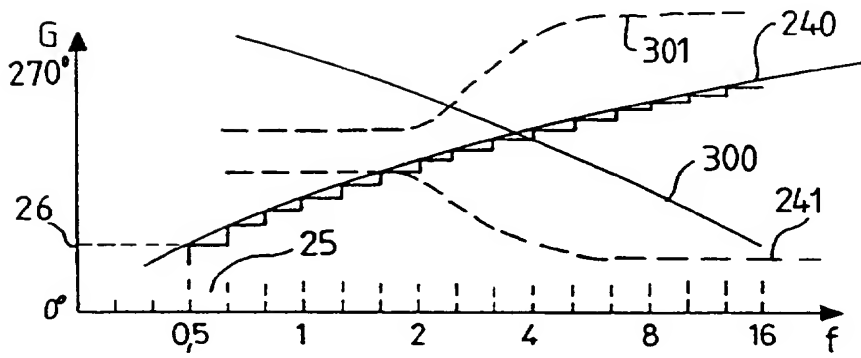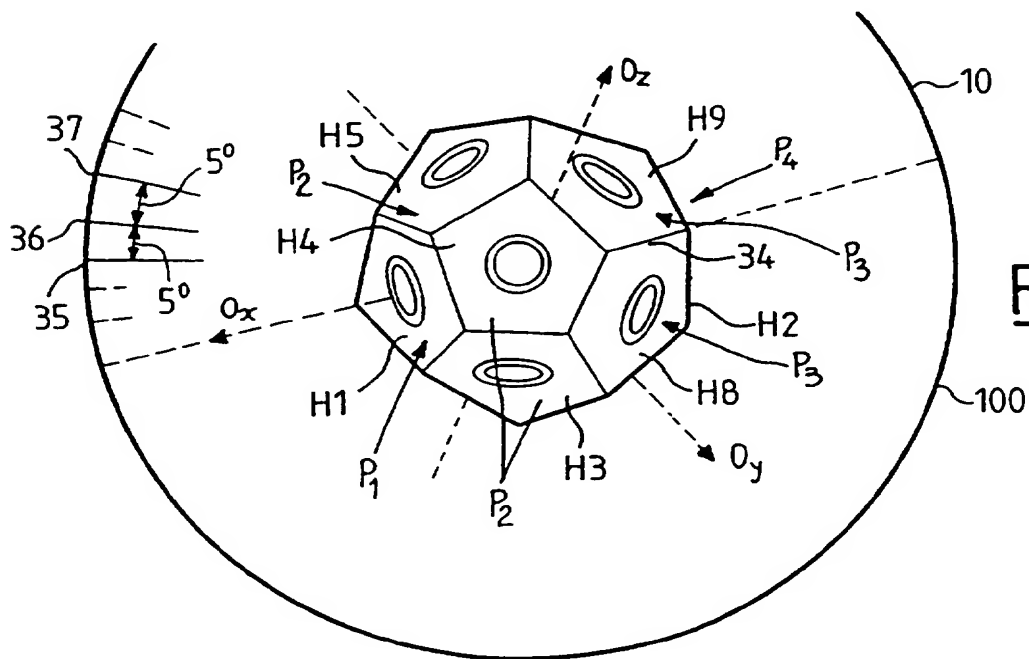
FIG_1

FIG_2

FIG_3

FIG_4
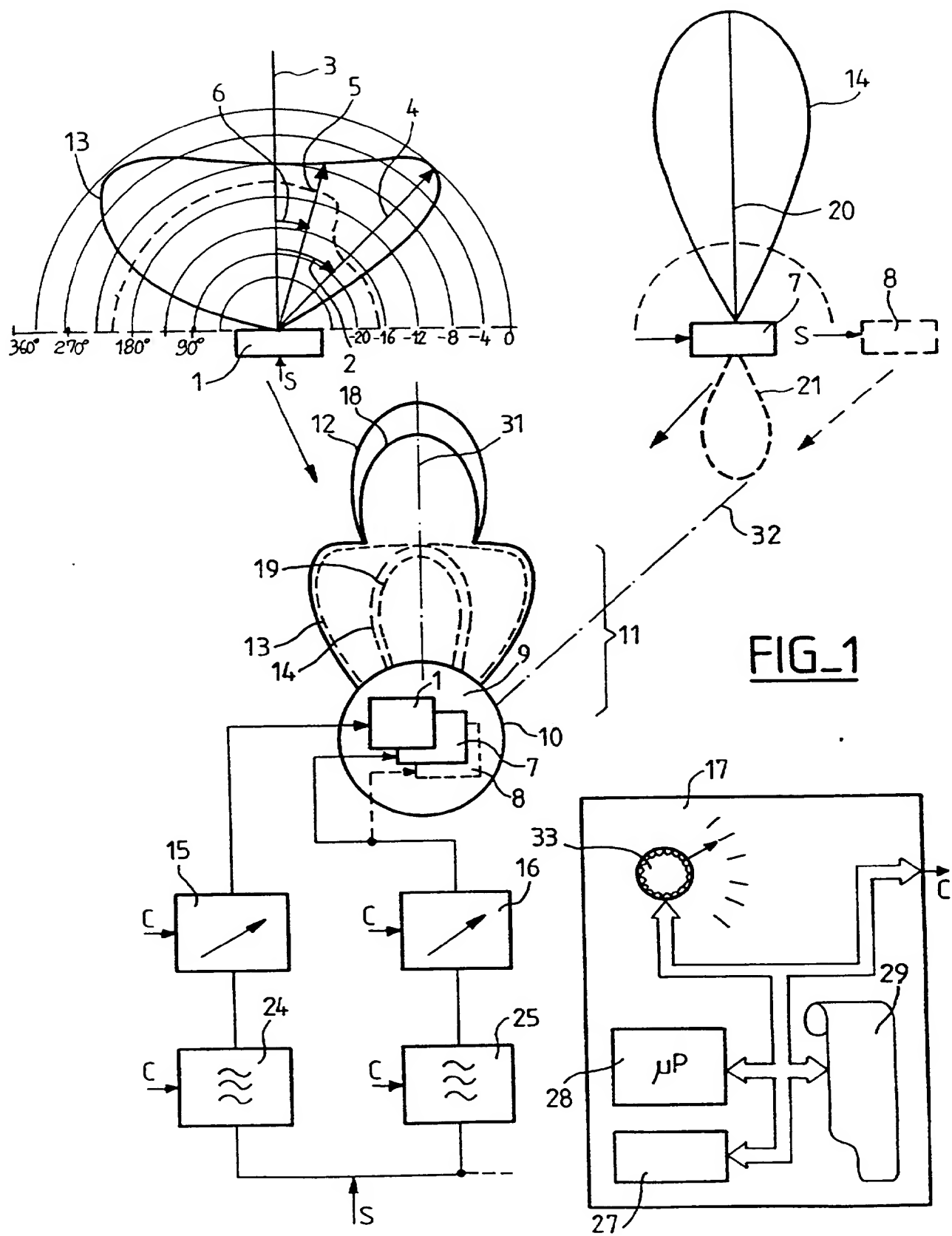
METHOD FOR THE DIFFUSION OF A SOUND WITH A GIVEN
DIRECTIVITY

5   A subject of the present invention is a method for the diffusion of a sound with a given directivity. It can be applied in the field of acoustics to the reproduction, with artificial sound sources, of sounds originally produced by natural sources or of sounds
10 synthesis algorithm, and with a given directivity. It can be used for electro acoustic installations in entertainment and concert halls, and also in the industrial field or in the field of sound diffusion in general.

15

     A sound source can generally be characterized by three physical properties: its timbre (temporal and spectral response), its intensity and its directivity. Loudspeakers or piezoelectrical type transducers enable
20 an almost perfect restitution of the timbre and intensity of sound. However, these devices have their own directivity. Consequently, they are incapable of reproducing the directivity of a sound source whose sounds they diffuse.
25   Although the directivity of a trumpet can approximately be compared to the directivity of a loudspeaker, however intruments with side holes (woodwind class) or having a sound board (string class, piano) are having very complex directivity patterns
30 which cannot be reproduced very faithfully by a single loudspeaker.
     There also is a known way of building sound emission chambers provided with sets of loudspeakers excited by one and the same electrical signal.
35 Depending on the frequency range, whether it is high, medium or low, the passband of these loudspeakers

enables them to diffuse spectral components of the total sound. Since each of these loudspeakers has its own directivity, it can be seen that it is not possible to achieve the directivity of a sound to be reproduced.

There is also a known way, in a field known as acoustic control, of modifying acoustic stresses at a particular place. For example, this particular place may be a workstation of an operator who, because of his location, is subjected to troublesome noise from identified sources or, by reverberation, to such noise from many non-identifiable sources. The principle of acoustic control consists in having a number of acoustic compensation sources available in the vicinity of this workstation, measuring the ambient noise in the vicinity of the operator by means of microphones and, with these acoustic compensation sources, producing antagonistic sounds (sounds in phase opposition) so that the workstation is less noisy. The nature of this type of phenomenon, the presence of a negative feedback in the system, contains no teaching on directivity.

The invention is aimed at achieving the ability, with an artificial sound source, to simulate the directivity of a natural or virtual sound source. The principle of the invention consists of the use of several artificial sound sources, assembled in an area, such that the values or functions of directivity of these sources are different from one another, and in then composing a composite directivity pattern with the values of directivity of each of these sources so as to approach, as closely as possible, an expected directivity pattern. The different artificial sources used are machines receiving an electrical signal and converting it into sound waves or pressure waves. They may be sources whose nature differs or sources whose nature is

identical but are then placed differently (essentially, positioned or oriented differently). It will be shown that with a limited number of sources arranged in the area, it is possible to approach the expected directivity to a
5   significant extent.

According to the invention there is thus provided a method for the diffusion of a sound comprising the following steps:

10   - sound sources grouped together are positioned in an area located in a place where the sound is to be diffused,
         - the sound sources are activated by electrical signals so that they produce the said sound and diffuse it
15   within the said place,
         - in order to diffuse this sound with an expected directivity outside the said area, the   functions   of directivity of the sources are composed algebraically with coefficients to produce a composite function of
20   directivity, and
         - the electrical signals activating the different sources are modulated as a function of the values of these coefficients,
         wherein
25   - the directivity functions in modulus and in phase of the sources are established, a directivity function of a source being all the values of correspondence between an angle of a direction of propagation measured with respect to a reference and a value in modulus and
30   phase of a sound signal emitted by this source and propagated in this direction,
         - the coefficients of the algebraic composition are determined by an optimization in modulus and in phase, and

- the electrical signals activating the different sources are modulated in amplitude and in phase as a function of the values of these coefficients.

The optimization is done in minimizing the

5 difference in modulus and in phase between the composite directivity and the expected directivity. One method would consist, in a first stage, in carrying out the optimization on the modulus (gain of the filters) and, in a second stage, in determining the

10 phase function of each of the filters to approach the desired directivity. In practice, the optimization of the modulus and of the phase are carried out in conjunction, as shall be seen in the rest of this description.

15 Indeed it has been realized, in the invention, that if the signals to be diffused were to be modulated in amplitude without attending to the phase, as in the document US-A-5 233 664, the result on the expected directivity would not be ensured, neither its homothetic

20 propagation in the space.

The invention will be understood more clearly from the following description and from the appended figures. These figures are given purely by way of an indication and in no way restrict the scope of the

25 invention. Of these figures:

- Figure 1 shows a schematic view of the equipment used to implement the method of the invention;

- Figure 2 gives a schematic view of the changes undergone by the directivity of the sources used as a

30 function of the frequency;

- Figure 3 gives a schematic view of the spectral graphs of frequency filters used in the invention;

- Figure 4 shows a view in perspective of a real composite sound source used in the invention.

35

Figure 1 shows a device that can be used to implement the method of the invention. This figure shows a directivity pattern 13 of a source 1 which, in one example, may be a loudspeaker. This loudspeaker

5 receives an electrical signal S that activates it. The function of directivity of the source 1 is constituted by all the values of correspondence between an angle, for example the angle 2 of a direction 4 of propagation, measured with respect to a reference 3 and

10 a value in modulus and in phase of a sound signal emitted by this source 1 and propagated in this direction 4. For the direction 4 which corresponds to the angle 2, it has been indicated, for the directivity pattern shown, that the attenuation of the amplitude of

15 the sound signal was 0 dB. For another direction 5 referenced by an angle 6, the attenuation of the signal is, for example, -6 dB. To show the directivity patterns, the amplitude of the signal in one direction is compared with the amplitude of the signal in a

20 nominal direction chosen arbitrarily or the direction in which it is the maximum. This is why the value is expressed in decibels. For the phase rotation, dashes are used to indicate the fact that the phase in the direction 4 has been shifted by 90° in relation to the

25 phase in the direction 5.

If the source is linear, and in the invention it shall be assumed that the sources are linear, the directivity pattern is preserved irrespective of the level of signal S applied to the source 1. For the

30 source 1, the sound propagated in the direction 4 will be always greater than the sound propagated in the direction 5 for one and the same activation signal. The phases will always be in correspondence.

Arbitrarily, the source 1 has been shown with a

35 directivity pattern 13 that is
different to a directivity pattern 14 of another source

7 to which the same signal S is applied. The invention will use sources whose values or functions of directivity, assessed in a common reference system, are different from one another. In fact, they will be values or functions of absolute

5   directivity, namely directivity of the source once it has been placed in the reproduction device and not intrinsic directivity (namely directivity assessed with respect to a reference linked to the source itself).

In the invention, there are sound sources 1, 7 and

10   possibly other sources 8 available in an area 9. The area 9 herein is circumscribed by a surface 10 of the area. The area 9 is itself located in a place 11 in which it is sought, with the sources 1, 7 and 8, to diffuse the sound. The sources 1, 7 and 8 are

15   activated by the electrical signal S.

To make a given directivity pattern for example that bearing the reference 12 in Figure 1, the idea has emerged in the invention of superimposing the diffusion lobes 13 and 14 of the sources 1 and 7. The

20   superimposition 12 of the lobes is the sum of the two functions of directivity 13 and 14, in modulus and in phase. The composite directivity function expected is in fact an algebraic composition and can be obtained by weighting the contributions of the sources by complex

25   multiplier coefficients (modulus and phase). In correspondence, variable gain and variable phase amplifiers, 15 and 16 respectively, are therefore used to modulate the values of the signal S applied to the sources 1 and 7 or others. The amplifiers 15 and 16

30   are activated by control signals C prepared by a control unit 17 whose operation shall be seen further below.

If the gain of the amplifier 16 is reduced, there could be a smaller contribution of the lobe 14 of the

35   source 7 to the directivity pattern obtained. The directivity pattern 18 shows that the contribution of

the lobe 14 has been reduced as compared with its nominal shape. The depiction 19 of the reduction of the lobe 14 is of course artificial since, by assumption, the directivity pattern of the source 7

5 remains the same even when the level of application of the signal is lower. However, the depiction 19 shows the product of the gain of the amplifier 16 multiplied by the directivity pattern 14: this is the contribution.

10 It will nevertheless easily be understood, through Figure 1, that with a sufficient number of sources it would be easy to make the most complex directivity patterns desired. The directivity patterns 12 or 18 may be made with sources such as the source 17 alone,

15 but on condition that the main direction of propagation 20 of the different sources 7 used are disoriented with respect to each other in the area 9. For example, it is possible to obtain a construction by fixing the loudspeakers to one another in such a way that their

20 main directions of propagation (namely, for each loudspeaker, the perpendicular to the diaphragm at its center) are oriented by 30° on either side of the main direction of one of the sources.

Just as Figure 1 shows the existence of a minor

25 lobe 21 for the source 7, it is known, cf.Figure 2, that a source has a directivity pattern that changes as a function of the frequency. For example, but solely by way of an illustration, it may be considered that for the source 1, the directivity pattern 13 gets

30 modified and takes the shape 22 and then the shape 23 when the frequency of the signal S rises. To take account of this effect, in the invention, fixed gain and fixed phase amplifiers are used, and the control of the gain and phase is transferred to frequency filters

35 24 and 25 respectively, making it possible to obtain the desired directivity pattern throughout the

frequency spectrum. If the filters 24 and 25 are not present, the invention will work less well, for example in a narrower frequency band.

With the addition of the filters 24 and 25 (as many
5 filters and as many amplifiers as there are sources to be controlled), it is possible, for each frequency range, or for each frequency, to set up the requisite directivity patterns. The way in which the algebraic composition is actually done shall be seen further
10 below.

Figure 3 gives an example of a value of the gain G of the filter 24 and its associated amplifier 15, as a function of the frequency f expressed in kiloHertz. The curve 240 shows steps (but of course the reasoning
15 is valid also for continuous frequency values) in which it is shown that, for each frequency range, for example the range 5, a useful level or proper value of gain is chosen, for example the level 26, to obtain a given directivity pattern by bringing about a contribution by a given
20 source. In other words, for a given source, the curve 240 shows the progress of the contribution needed to obtain a given directivity pattern as a function of the frequency. Figure 3 again, under the same conditions, uses dashes to show the phase diagram 241 of the filter
25 24 which is necessary in conjunction with the gain curve 240 to obtain said directivity pattern.

To put it concisely, in a memory 27 of the control unit 17, recordings are stored. These recordings comprise, for the curves 240 and 241, a correspondence
30 between the values of the ranges 25, the levels 26 of gain and the phase shifts. In the memory 27, as many lists of recordings such as those corresponding to the curves 240 and 241 are stored as there are sources 1, 7 or 8 to be controlled. To obtain the synthesis of the
35 chosen directivity pattern, a processor 28 of the control unit 17 is made to process a processing program

contained in a memory 29. In having its parameters set by the values contained in the memory 27, the processing program produces the commands C enabling the adjustment of the amplifiers 15, for optimization on a single frequency range, or the filters 24 for optimization performed on several frequencies or several frequency ranges. This type of operation is known. In one example, the filters 24 are switched capacitor filters having the specific feature of being easily parametrized in real time. It is also possible to use digital filtering techniques if the signal S is digital, in which case it may be converted into an analog signal before being applied to the sources.

Figure 3 shows other curves 300 and 301 representing a type of filtering other than that of the filtering 240-241, to be applied for the same given source but corresponding to a different directivity pattern. For example, the curve 240 corresponds to the contribution of the source to the making of a directivity pattern of a trumpet while the curve 300 would correspond to the contribution of this same source to reproduce the directivity of a saxophone. Or again, the curve 240 corresponds to a directivity pattern of a trumpet emitting in a main direction 31 (Figure 1) while the curve 300 would correspond to another main direction 32, disoriented with respect to the main direction 31. It can thus be seen that the use of the filters 24 and 25, associated with the amplifiers 15 and 16, enable the simulation of all possibilities: all the instruments radiating in any direction whatsoever or even any arbitrary function of directivity.

In a simple example shown in Figure 1, the control unit 17 furthermore has a switch 33 enabling an operator to choose one directivity pattern rather than another. The switch will then indicate positions

corresponding to different musical instruments such as the trombone, saxophone, piano, etc. Depending on the state of the switching, the microprocessor 28 will pick up the corresponding parameter-setting information
5   elements in the memory 27. Or else, according to what has been stated here above, the switch could have intermediate positions between two extreme positions called the left-hand and right-hand positions, characterizing a direction of propagation of a major
10 lobe with respect to the area 9. In this case, it is possible to simulate the fact that a musician gradually turns from left to right before to his or her audience.

The switch 33 may, itself, be servocontrolled by external commands in order to modify the function of directivity obtained
15 in the course of time: For example, according to a preloaded sequence, a score or pitch following, or an automatic adaptation to a given acoustical criterion.

In the example shown in Figure 4, the artificial sound sources used are loudspeakers mounted on the twelve faces of a dodecahedron
20 inscribed within a sphere 34 having a radius of about 35cm. Although the sources formed by the twelve loudspeakers H1 to H12 can be differntiated in terms of directivity owing to the fact that, already, they have quite different orientations, it has been chosen firstly to take identical loudspeakers and secondly to control certain
25 of these twelve loudspeakers as a group. It has been decided to consider, as independent sources, sources P1 and P4 that are formed respectively by loudspeakers H1 and H2 mounted on two faces of the dodecahedron opposite to each other. A source P2 is then formed by
30 five loudspeakers H3 to H7 (H6 and H7 not shown) mounted on the five faces contiguous to H1. Preferably, the loudspeakers are even electrically series-connected and not parallel-connected. A fourth source P3 is made by the association, also preferably
35 in series, of the loudspeakers H8 to H12 (H10 to H12 not shown) mounted on the five faces contiguous to H2.

This arrangement has the advantage of proposing an acoustical field with axial symmetry with an axis Ox going through the middle of H1 and H2.

The area 9 considered at the beginning is herein constituted by this sphere 34. The surface 10 beyond which the directivity patterns obtained will be considered is a sphere having, in this example, a radius of 1.35 m about the center of the dodecahedric ball 34. Naturally, it is possible to have several balls such as 34 associated in one and the same field, the surface 10 being determined accordingly.

An explanation shall now be given, firstly of the way in which the directivity patterns of each of the sources (P1-P4) of the area 34 are determined and secondly of the way in which the previously cited algebraic combination is made in order to obtain an expected directivity pattern.

To determine the intrinsic directivity patterns of the sources, in this case P1 to P4, it is possible to model these sources. However, for reasons of simplicity, it has been chosen to measure their directivity by assessing what happens on the surface of the sphere 10. Given the axial symmetry cited herein with reference to the axis Ox, it will be enough to carry out this measurement on a circumference 100 of the sphere 10 and deduce the results of directivity in space by revolution about the axis Ox. At the time of the measurement, a sensitive microphone is shifted along the circumference 100 at successive places 35, 36 and 37 spaced out at 5° with respect to one another, while a signal is applied to only one of the sources P1 to P4 to be studied.

For reasons of simplicity, the signal S applied has been the pulse signal and the spectrum, amplitude and phase of the received signal have been measured at the positions 35 to 37. By standardizing the measurements

made, frequency range by frequency range, with respect
to a nominal value received at a position, it has been
possible, for each source, to determine the curves 13
or 14 thus obtained as well as the associated phase
5   curves.   In practice, it is enough to perform this
study for the sources P1 and P2.   For the sources P3
and P4, 180° rotations about the axis Ox and about an
axis perpendicular to Ox give the measured patterns of
spatial directivity.   It could have been possible, if
10   each loudspeaker H1-H12 had been individualized, to
make the measurement for H1 alone and deduce the other
patterns by rotations linked to the angles formed by
the faces of the dodecahedron.   These figures of
directivity are memorized.   For each source, frequency
15   range by frequency range, the following are therefore
stored in a memory: a correspondence between an
acoustic level, an amplitude and a phase, and an angle
of propagation.   This correspondence may be analytical
should the sources have been modelled.
20   The computation of the values of directivity has
been done in one example with a frequency step of 23.4
Hz.   This furthermore gives an idea of the width of the
zones 25.   It is even possible to make a finer
appreciation if desired. It is possible on the contrary
25   to be satisfied with an operation for rendering the
frequency discrete by thirds of octaves.
A surface 10 has been chosen that is sufficiently
great as compared with the area 34, for example in such
a way that its diameter is four times the diameter of
30   the area 34.   It has been shown that since, in theory,
it does not make use of far   field approximations,
the choice of the surface 10, provided that this
surface encompasses the sources, does not affect the
validity of the approach and can therefore be
35   arbitrary.

By way of an example, a method shall now be given that can be used to assess the algebraic composition, for a given frequency range, of the coefficients applied to the filters.

5   For a given frequency range having four sources, it is necessary to determine four complex coefficients, pertaining to attenuation and phase shift, of the signal S to be applied to the sources. In an initial stage, to simplify matters, we shall consider four

10   directions for which the acoustic level to be obtained, given the directivity pattern to be achieved, must have the values A, B, C and D respectively. Each source P1 to P4 has, in these four directions, owing to its own directivity, factors of diffusion of the signal equal

15   to P1a, P1b, P1c, P1d, ..., P4c, P4d. These factors emerge from the directivity patterns measured beforehand. The coefficients to be applied to the amplifier filters 15, 16 and others are then values a, b, c, d such that:

20   a.P1a + b.P2a + c.P3a + d.P4a = A

a.P1b + b.P2b + c.P3b + d.P4b = B

a.P1c + b.P2c + c.P3c + d.P4c = C

a.P1d + b.P2d + c.P3d + d.P4d = D

This system is a CRAMER system of four equations

25   with four unknown quantities: a, b, c, d. The solution thereof can easily be found. It is enough then, with the control unit 17, to apply the corresponding commands to the amplifiers 15 and 16.

If the operation is stopped at this point, there

30   will be obtained the effects of the invention limited to the frequency range studied. According to what has been referred to here above, it will be preferred to recompute the coefficients a to d for another frequency range (the lower third of an octave, the upper third of

35   an octave, etc.). Continuing in this manner, the contributions, in frequency, of the different sources

needed to achieve a given directivity pattern are determined so that they can be stored in a memory 27.

The simplified presentation with four main directions of assessment of the composite directivity may be extended to the entire space. However, given the limited number of sources, it cannot be claimed that identity will be met in this case. The operation will then consist of a minimization, in the sense of a standard or norm, of the difference between the composite directivity obtained (for given values of the coefficients a, b, c, d) and the expected directivity. The techniques of mathematical regression, such as that of the least squares approximation, then give the best possible results for the values of the filters, in view of the limited number of sources.

More specifically, the expected directivity is considered. This directivity is referenced $T(r,\omega)$ wherein r designates the position in space and ω the pulsation. Also considered are the functions of directivity $Pi(r,\omega)$ associated respectively with each source i constituting the restitution device. $T(r,\omega)$ and $Pi(r,\omega)$ are defined in modulus and phase (according to the definition of the directivity function of the invention). The filter associated with the source i is referenced $Ai(\omega)$. The optimization method consists in minimizing the functional:

$$F(\omega) = N[T(r,\omega) - \Sigma Ai(\omega)Pi(r,\omega)]^2$$

where N designates a continuous or discrete norm integrating, if necessary, a weighting operation. For example, the error function could take the following form:

$$F(\omega) = \Sigma_k w_k \left| T(r_k, \omega) - \Sigma_i Ai(\omega)Pi(r_k, \omega) \right|^2$$

where the values of r_k designate the different points of the space on which the optimization is carried out and the values of w_k are weighting coefficients used to foster optimization on a region of space.

The trend with respect to analysis done up till now tends to ensure the reproduction of a field of pressure throughout space by the adjusting of moduli and phases. The filters 24 and 25 are therefore chosen accordingly,

5 in amplitude and phase. The compromise as regards the modulus may be revised as a function of the phase constraints. A limited approach could consist in performing the optimization on the gain parameters alone.

10 For the diffusion, in the case of a use of media (disks, magnetic tapes, digital optical disks) where sounds are recorded, in addition to the signal S, the signals a, b, c, d (or their equivalents) for each frequency range are stored on these media or

15 transmitted to the sources. In this case, the sources are provided with the control unit 17, and the memory 27 of this control unit could be eliminated and replaced by an input that provides for the permanent availability of the necessary coefficients of

20 amplification and/or filtering. In the case of a radiofrequency diffusion, the signals a, b, c, d or their equivalents may also be broadcast.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for the diffusion of   sound comprising the following steps:

- sound sources grouped together are positioned in an area located in a place where a   sound is to be diffused,

- the sound sources are activated by electrical signals so that they produce the said sound and diffuse it within the said place,

- in order to diffuse this sound with an expected directivity outside the said area, the functions   of directivity of the sources are composed algebraically with coefficients to produce a composite function of directivity, and

- the electrical signals activating the different sources are modulated as a function of the values of these coefficients,

wherein

- directivity functions in modulus and in phase of the sources are established, a directivity function of a source being all the values of correspondence between an angle of a direction of propagation measured with respect to a reference and a value in modulus and phase of a sound signal emitted by this source and propagated in this direction,

- the coefficients of the algebraic composition are determined by an optimization in modulus and in phase, and

- the electrical signals activating the different sources are modulated in amplitude and in phase as a function of the values of these coefficients.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein in order to carry out the modulation:

- functions of directivity proper to the sources are established, frequency by frequency or frequency range by frequency range,

- differences are computed, frequency range by frequency range, between the composite functions of directivity and the expected functions of directivity,

- the coefficients of the algebraic composition are modified, frequency range by frequency range, to minimize the differences, and

- the electrical signals applied to each source are filtered with filters whose transfer function correspond to the modified coefficients.

3. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 2, wherein:

- functions of directivity are established by modelling.

4. A method according to one of the claims 1 or 2, wherein:

- functions of directivity are established by the measurement, for each of the sources taken individually, at points of a surface surrounding said area, of an acoustic pressure at a given frequency or in a given range of frequency.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein:

- ranges of frequency corresponding to a third of an octave are chosen.

6. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 5, wherein:

- the values of the coefficients are made to vary in the course of time in order to modify the expected directivity.

7. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 6, wherein:

- the sources are arranged on the faces of a polyhedron.

8. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 7, wherein:

- the sources are arranged on the faces of a dodecahedron.

9. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 8, wherein:

- the sources are grouped together in order to activate them with identical electrical signals and/or
- the sources are supplied in series.

10. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 9, wherein:

- said coefficients are transmitted to a control unit of the sources at the same time as said electrical signals are transmitted to the sources, and
- the modulation of the electrical signals is altered in real time as a function of the coefficients transmitted.

11. A use of the method according to any of the claims 1 to 10, wherein a signal (S) to be diffused and information elements for the adjusting and directivity of the sources are transmitted to sources and to an associated control unit.

12. A method for the diffusion of sound substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

The Patent Office

Application No: GB 9613818.5   **Examiner:** Peter Easterfield

Claims searched: 1 to 11   **Date of search:** 4 October 1996

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

    UK Cl (Ed.O): H4J (JGC)

     Int Cl (Ed.6): H04R 1/32, 1/40, 3/12, 27/00

Other: Online: WPI, JAPIO, CLAIMS

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2273848 A (PIONEER)	1-4,9-11
X	GB 2259426 A (PIONEER)	1-4,9-11
X	GB 1456790 A (TAYLOR)	1,9-11
X	GB 1378784 A (TAYLOR)	1,9-11
X	US 4845759 A (DANLEY)	1,9-11
X,P	WO 96/14723 A1 (DURAN)	1-4,9-11
X	JAPIO Abstract Accession No.03986097 & JP 04-0351197 A (MATSUSHITA) 04.12.92 (see abstract)	1,9-11
X	JAPIO Abstract Accession No.03264298 & JP 02-0239798 A (TOA) 21.09.90 (see abstract)	1-4,9-11

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
		E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.
&	Member of the same patent family		